

NINETY-THIRD  
ANNUAL REPORT

---

MECHANICS'  
INSTITUTE

SAN FRANCISCO  
CALIFORNIA

NINETEEN HUNDRED  
FORTY-EIGHT





MECHANICS' INSTITUTE  
OFFICERS

Board of Trustees

Year Ending February 27, 1948

Ninety-third Annual Report

OF THE

MECHANICS' INSTITUTE

FOR THE

Year Ending February 29, 1948



MECHANICS' INSTITUTE  
OFFICERS

*Board of Trustees*

*Year Ending February 29, 1948*

[illegible]

CHARLES BAGBY  
WM. A. DAY  
GEORGE U. HIND  
STETSON G. HINDS  
DR. JOS. D. HODGEN  
WARREN H. MCBRYDE  
WILLIAM G. MERCHANT  
WILLIAM N. ROLPH  
EDWIN W. STADTMULLER  
A. E. WILKENS

GENEVIEVE TOMPKINSON - - - - - Secretary

## Library Staff

MARY O. CARMODY  
*Librarian*

JOHN STUMP	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Assistant Librarian
ELSIE R. WORLEY	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Cataloguer
IRENE WILBERT	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Reference Librarian
JOSEPHINE THOMPSON	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Assistant Reference Librarian
NORMAN GREEN	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Chief, Circulation Department
DOROTHY CLARK	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	General Assistant
MARY LOGAN	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Assistant, Circulation Department
CHARLOTTE JAMES	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Assistant, Circulation Department

### Evening Assistants

CECILIA DONOGHUE, JANE DOYLE King & Howell  
ROSE M. O'TOOLE - - - - - Book Processor



## MECHANICS' INSTITUTE

---

Mechanics'-Mercantile Library

---

Mechanics' Institute Chess and Checker Club

---

57 Post Street  
San Francisco, California

---

The Library now contains over one hundred and forty-one thousand volumes. Special attention is given to the division of technology. Over five hundred periodicals and newspapers are on file. A chess and checker room is maintained, where smoking is permitted. Library open daily, 9 a. m. to 10 p. m. Sunday, 1 p. m. to 5 p. m. Chess room, daily, 9 a. m. to 10 p. m.

## TERMS OF MEMBERSHIP

Entrance Fee .....	\$ 1.00
Half-yearly Dues (in advance).....	3.00
Life Membership .....	100.00

Non-residents may use the Library for one month on payment of fifty cents.

A member may introduce a friend (not a resident of the city), who will be allowed the use of the Library rooms for one month.

## LIBRARY RULES

Members are entitled to take out four books at a time, provided however, that only two books of new fiction or current magazines marked "One Week Only", whether regular books or extra books, may be out at the same time on one membership. Extra books may be taken out on payment of five cents each.

All new fiction and new magazines may be kept out one week only, and are not renewable. All other circulating books, except where marked "One Week" or "Seven Days", may be kept out two weeks and may be renewed for two weeks longer unless marked "Not Renewable." Renewal notice may be given by mail or telephone (GARfield 1-1750).

An overdue charge of five cents a day will be made on all one week books, current magazines and books marked "Not Renewable." On other books a charge of two cents a day will be made.

Reservation postals may be left for all circulating books.

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

San Francisco, California,

April 6, 1948

To: Members of the Mechanics' Institute:

I have the honor to present to you the ninety-third annual report of the President of the Mechanics' Institute.

It is with great sorrow that I have to report the passing during the year of two of our most valued Trustees, Mr. Frank C. Shaughnessy and Mr. William Penn Humphreys.

No words could better express our feelings than the tributes paid to them in Resolutions drawn up by our fellow Trustee, Mr. Charles Bagby and unanimously passed by your Board.

The one in memory of Mr. Shaughnessy is as follows:

"Frank C. Shaughnessy was a native of California. He served as President of the San Francisco Stock Exchange and was for thirty years a member of the Mechanics' Institute. He was selected trustee of the Mechanics' Institute in 1941, became Treasurer in 1943 and chairman of the Finance Committee of the Board of Trustees at the time of his death. In this last office he gave generously of his time and advice and was one of those upon whom fell the burden of working out the new investment program of the Institute in a time fraught with business uncertainty and change.

"As a trustee of the Institute and as one of those charged with its fiscal affairs, he rendered prudent and invaluable services. The generosity of his spirit and the wisdom of his counsel were always at the service of this organization.

"At a meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Mechanics' Institute, held the 2nd day of September, 1947, the following resolution was unanimously adopted and a copy thereof, signed by the President and Secretary of the Institute, was by the said Board directed to be sent to his family:

"WHEREAS, it has pleased Almighty God to recall from our midst our friend and colleague, Frank C. Shaughnessy, and

"WHEREAS, we the members of the Board of Trustees of the Mechanics' Institute, in token of our sense of loss, desire to express the sentiments of respect and esteem that we bore for our late co-worker;

"NOW, THEREFORE, be it unanimously

"RESOLVED: That we communicate to the family of the late Frank C. Shaughnessy our condolences, and be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution, signed by the President and Secretary of the Institute be sent to them."



The one in memory of Mr. Humphreys is as follows:

"William Penn Humphreys, descendant of pioneer San Francisco stock, was a graduate of the University of California and of Harvard and Hastings Colleges. He was a member of the Sons of the American Revolution, a Thirty-second Degree Mason, a life member of the Mechanics' Institute and as a member of its Board of Trustees had served on the Library Committee thereof for many years. He had a fine and discriminating taste in books and gave much personal interest to the selection of volumes for the library. His judgment was matured by forty years' practice of the law, his spirit was open and frank, his manner friendly, and his counsel wise.

"At a meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Mechanics' Institute, held the 2nd day of September, 1947, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

"WHEREAS, this Board has lost a friend and colleague in William Penn Humphreys, and

"WHEREAS, we desire to express our sense of sorrow at the withdrawal from among us of one who had labored long for the well-being of this Institution;

"NOW, THEREFORE, be it unanimously

"RESOLVED: That we communicate to the family of the late William Penn Humphreys our sorrow at his passing and that a copy of this resolution, signed by the President and Secretary of the Institute, be sent to them."

To fill the vacancies caused by their deaths your Trustees elected Mr. Warren McBryde and Mrs. Arthur E. Wilkens.

At the election held on February 24th, 1948, the members of the Institute through their votes honored the following Trustees by again electing them to office: Messrs. Wm. A. Day, John F. Forbes, Geo. U. Hind, William G. Merchant, William N. Rolph, Edwin W. Stadtmuller, Elgin Stoddard.

Changing economic conditions to a higher price level have made rental increases necessary. This added revenue has helped to meet the especially heavy expenditures indicated in the Secretary's Report as to new elevators, installation of a new furnace, and building improvements. During the year a salary increase was granted to all the Assistants on the Library Staff in consideration of the rising cost of living.

The prices of books, binding and periodicals have increased so rapidly during the last year that careful buying is essential to maintain the usual ratio between the amount paid as dues and the sum expended in the conduct of the Library. The expense per capita is approximately *three times* the amount paid as dues by each member. The selection of books is directed by the general taste of our members but we endeavor also to maintain a reasonable balance between the technical and more serious literature with the currently popular books for which through intensive advertisement there is an artificially urgent though short-lived demand.

Finally, I am pleased to express the appreciation of your Trustees and myself of the services to the Institute of our Librarian, Secretary and members of our Staff for their devotion to their work, unremitting courtesy and efficiency which has contributed to your pleasure in the use of our facilities for learning and culture.

Also, I wish to express the appreciation of the officers of the Institute for the fine services of the Board of Trustees in the management of its affairs.

This has been evidenced in the excellence of our financial report and the continued high standing of the Institute in its field of public activities.

ELGIN STODDARD,

President

## SECRETARY'S REPORT

For the Year Ending Feb. 29, 1948

San Francisco, April 6, 1948

To the Board of Trustees of the Mechanics' Institute,

San Francisco.

Gentlemen:—

I have the honor to present herewith financial statement of the Mechanics' Institute for the year ending February 29, 1948:

March 1, 1947, Cash on deposit in various banks.....	\$100,239.55
Cash in revolving funds.....	550.00
Total Cash.....	100,789.55

### RECEIPTS

Mechanics' Institute Building — rent collections, etc. from March 1, 1947 to February 29, 1948.....	\$ 75,281.48
Interest, Ernest N. Atkins Memorial Fund.....	24.96
Interest, James Lick Fund.....	105.04
Interest, Savings Account.....	214.14
Interest, Bills Receivable.....	6.01
Interest, Bonds.....	18,117.10
Dividends, Preferred Stocks.....	8,977.50
Dividends, Common Stocks.....	11,308.41
Library and General Administration:	
Dues .....	\$ 24,854.00
Entrance Fees.....	940.00
Life Memberships.....	100.00
Books Paid For.....	422.62
Fines and Extra Books.....	2,791.80
Sundry .....	13.00
	<hr/>
	29,121.42
Total .....	<hr/>
	\$143,156.06
Received from Investment Accounts:	
Payments on Notes Receivable.....	40.00
Sale of Stock Rights.....	112.55
	<hr/>
	152.55

Total cash received..... 143,308.61

---

\$244,098.16



## EXPENDITURES

Mechanics' Institute Building — Operating expenses from March 1, 1947 to February 29, 1948:

Pay Roll .....	\$ 31,635.31
Taxes .....	11,565.75
Insurance .....	2,013.04
Heat .....	890.59
Light and Power.....	3,408.62
Water .....	295.91
Window Cleaning .....	348.38
Supplies .....	544.02
Repairs .....	925.19
General Expense .....	3,236.30
	<u>\$ 54,863.11</u>

## Library and General Administration:

Books, Binding and Periodicals....	\$ 13,223.10
General Expense .....	3,548.32
Insurance .....	311.13
Legal Expense .....	250.00
Printing and Stationery.....	786.92
Salaries .....	31,196.88
Supplies .....	68.27
Monthly Bulletin .....	321.61
Rent of Library Rooms.....	18,720.00
	<u>68,426.23</u>

Total Operating Expense 123,289.34

## Investment Account:

Common Stocks Purchased.....	23,180.39
Preferred Stocks Purchased.....	17,985.63
Post Street Building.....	20,036.35
	<u>Total 61,202.37</u>
Total Cash Paid Out.....	\$184,491.71
Cash on hand in various Banks, Feb. 29, 1948....	59,056.45
Cash on hand in contingent funds.....	550.00
	<u>Total Cash on Hand..... 59,606.45</u>
	<u>\$244,098.16</u>

## SUMMARY

Cash on Hand, March 1, 1947.....	100,789.55
Total Income .....	143,156.06
Total Expense .....	<u>123,289.34</u>

Excess Receipts .....	19,866.72
Received from Investment Accounts.....	<u>152.55</u>

	120,808.82
Less Investment Made.....	<u>61,202.37</u>

Cash on Hand, February 29, 1948.....	59,606.45
--------------------------------------	-----------

The above figures indicate that the cash receipts (excluding the amounts received and expended for Investment Accounts) were \$19,866.72 in excess of Expenditures.

The net amount expended since April 18, 1906, on Books and

Periodicals and binding of new books has been.....\$449,114.90  
The amount paid out for construction, equipment, etc., of the

Post Street Building has been..... 395,029.04  
Insurance is carried as follows:

Books, Furnishings and other contents.....	\$150,000.00
Post Street Building.....	<u>435,000.00</u>

The Resources of the Mechanics' Institute are as follows:

Post Street lot covered by Mechanics' Institute Building.  
First Mortgages for \$2000.00 on San Francisco Real Estate.

Bonds to the par value of \$481,023.06, as follows:

\$ 63,000.00	San Francisco, Cal., City Hall 5%.
400.00	San Francisco, Cal., Municipal Railway 5%.
5,000.00	San Francisco, Cal., Water 4 1/2%.
3,000.00	San Francisco, Cal., Hetch Hetchy Water 4 1/2%.
16,000.00	San Francisco, Cal., Hetch Hetchy Water 5%.
5,000.00	San Francisco, Cal., Spring Valley 4 1/2%.
2,000.00	Cloverdale, Cal., Municipal Improvement 5%.
64,000.00	East Bay Municipal Utilities 5%.
2,000.00	Marin, Cal., Municipal Water District 5%.
30,000.00	Metropolitan Water District 4%.
4,393.90	Monterey, Cal., Municipal Improvement 5%.
5,000.00	Petaluma, Cal., City High School 6%.
3,000.00	Pittsburg, Cal., Municipal Improvement 5%.
3,000.00	Sacramento, Cal., School District 4 1/2%.
3,000.00	Sacramento, Cal., High School District 4 1/2%.
10,000.00	Santa Rosa, Cal., Union High School District 5%.
5,000.00	Fresno County, Cal., 5%.
11,000.00	California State Bldgs. and University Bldgs., 4 1/2%.
4,000.00	California State Harbor 4%.
3,000.00	California State Highway 4 1/2%.
54,000.00	California State Highway 4 3/4%.
3,000.00	California State University Buildings 4 1/2%.
1,000.00	California State Veterans' Welfare 4 1/2%.
26,229.16	United States Savings Bonds (paying 2.9%).
125,000.00	United States Savings Bonds of Defense 2 1/2%.
5,000.00	United States Treasury Bonds 2 1/4%.
25,000.00	United States Treasury 2%.



## PREFERRED STOCK as follows:

20 shares American Snuff.
150 shares American Tobacco Co.
200 shares Atchison Topeka & S. F. Ry.
200 shares General Motors.
600 shares Pacific Gas & Electric 6%.
100 shares Pacific Tel. & Tel. Co. 6%.
500 shares Southern Calif. Gas 6%.
200 shares Union Pacific Ry.
200 shares United States Smelting.
200 shares United States Steel.
600 shares Virginia Ry.

## COMMON STOCK as follows:

100 shares Allied Chemical & Dye Corp.
200 shares Allis Chalmers.
100 shares American Tel. & Tel. Co.
200 shares Carnation Co.
150 shares Caterpillar Tractor Co.
200 shares Continental Ins. Co.
100 shares Dupont de Nemours & Co.
125 shares Electric Auto Lite Co.
300 shares General Electric.
200 shares General Foods.
150 shares General Motors Corp.
300 shares Inland Steel Company.
50 shares Norfolk & Western Ry.
200 shares Pacific Lighting Corp.
400 shares Standard Oil of California.
200 shares Standard Oil of N. J.
200 shares Sterling Drugs.
300 shares United Fruit Co.

Cash on hand March 1, 1948, \$59,606.45.

Books, Furniture and Equipment of the Library.

Respectfully submitted,  
GENEVIEVE TOMPKINSON, *Secretary.*

## REPORT OF THE LIBRARY

For the Year Ending February 29, 1948

San Francisco, California, April 6, 1948

To the President and Board of Trustees, Mechanics' Institute.

Gentlemen:—I herewith submit the ninety-second annual report of the Library for the year ending February 29, 1948.

## Membership

March 1, 1947 .....		5,146
Added—Subscribing .....	938	
Reinstated .....	18	956
		6,102
Withdrawn—Life (deceased) .....	15	
Subscribing .....	953	968
		5,134

During the year 17 subscribing members who had paid dues continuously for thirty years were, according to the Constitution, made life members. One life membership was purchased.

The membership was divided as follows:

Life .....	536
Subscribing .....	4,598
	5,134

## Book Accessions

Number of volumes listed March 1, 1947 .....		143,710
Added by purchase .....	2,930	
Added by binding .....	322	
Added by gift .....	245	3,497
		147,207
Less lost, paid for, and discarded .....		1,532
Number of volumes listed February 29, 1948 .....		145,675

## Circulation

There were issued for home use 177,309 volumes, an average monthly circulation of 14,776 volumes.

## Accessions by Classes

	Purchased	Cost	Bound	Cost	Gifts	Total
General Works .....	32	\$ 136.65	38	\$ 196.77	17	87
Philosophy .....	78	166.39	2	9.20	5	85
Religion .....	48	77.47			7	55
Sociology .....	209	780.20	28	159.35	95	332
Philology .....	5	14.76				5
Science .....	75	315.89	49	253.80	28	152
Useful Arts .....	249	895.69	165	952.50	49	463
Fine Arts .....	176	468.88	29	160.65	9	214
Literature .....	165	360.15	2	9.15	9	176
Travel .....	129	343.73	4	21.80	6	139
Biography .....	178	499.75			2	180
History .....	191	519.51	5	23.95	8	204
Fiction and Juvenile .....	1,395	2,742.75			10	1,405
Total .....	2,930	\$7,321.82	322	\$1,787.17	245	3,497

## Table of Circulation Statistics

General Works .....	449	Literature .....	10,052
Philosophy .....	3,567	Foreign Literature .....	292
Religion .....	1,744	Travel .....	7,735
Sociology .....	5,863	Biography .....	10,179
Philology .....	397	History .....	7,312
Science .....	4,503	Fiction .....	99,088
Useful Arts .....	10,264	Periodicals .....	7,947
Fine Arts .....	7,686	Juvenile .....	231
		Total .....	177,309
Fiction .....		99,264 volumes, 56.00 per cent	
Non-Fiction .....		78,045 volumes, 44.00 per cent	
Adult Books .....		177,078 volumes, 99.87 per cent	
Children's Books .....		231 volumes, 00.13 per cent	

Respectfully submitted,

MARY O. CARMODY,

*Librarian.*



## APPENDIX

Year Ending Feb. 28	Sub- scribing	Membership Life	Total	Volumes Library	Circula- tion
1948	4,598	536	5,134	145,675	177,309
1947	4,613	533	5,146	143,710	177,163
1946	4,275	528	4,803	142,468	168,406
1945	3,655	614	4,269	141,988	158,477
1944	3,096	610	3,708	141,832	141,657
1943	2,708	598	3,308	142,328	136,483
1942	2,875	591	3,466	142,095	151,106
1941	3,048	584	3,632	142,376	166,928
1940	3,243	555	3,800	139,908	181,945
1939	3,299	563	3,862	137,655	189,748
1938	3,296	562	3,858	135,463	192,507
1937	3,404	570	3,974	132,273	197,969
1936	3,407	590	3,997	130,355	212,344
1935	3,312	598	3,910	127,815	220,372
1934	3,290	604	3,896	124,425	230,545
1933	3,517	649	4,166	121,666	250,140
1932	3,835	664	4,499	118,928	254,205
1931	3,878	666	4,546	114,347	237,974
1930	3,748	677	4,425	108,697	208,552
1929	3,657	679	4,336	103,123	176,174
1928	3,789	703	4,492	98,195	165,253
1927	4,032	702	4,734	102,056	161,980
1926	4,030	690	4,723	98,696	164,347
1925	4,170	690	4,860	94,992	169,631
1924	4,356	652	5,008	91,433	172,712
1923	4,317	657	4,974	87,855	172,902
1922	4,160	646	4,806	84,056	175,502
1921	3,842	650	4,492	80,776	150,376
1920	3,408	649	4,057	77,140	128,480
1919	2,994	653	3,647	73,128	101,728
1918	3,135	590	3,725	70,055	118,159
1917	3,144	598	3,742	65,875	132,721
1916	2,982	617	3,599	63,672	127,866
1915	2,862	626	3,488	56,740	131,687
1914	2,709	632	3,341	50,776	125,650
1913	2,855	643	3,498	44,527	118,998
1912	2,660	644	3,304	39,266	110,194
1911	2,385	651	3,036	35,392	88,753
1910	1,717	645	2,362	32,186	71,741
1909	2,034	646	2,680	28,324	83,042
1908	2,120	643	2,763	24,179	-----
1907	2,726	651	3,377	17,850	-----
April 18, 1906	-----	-----	4,150	-----	-----

MECHANICS' INSTITUTE PUBLICATIONS  
In Print

Annual Reports, 1907 to date.

List of books on architecture. August, 1913.

List of books on building and building materials. December, 1913.

List of books on electrical engineering. June, 1916.

List of books on petroleum. January, 1917.

List of books on aeronautics and military and naval engineering. January, 1918.

List of books added, 1914 to date.

List of periodical literature on file in the Mechanics' Institute Library, 1928.

Compiled by Mary O. Carmody.

Seventy-five years of history of the Mechanics' Institute, compiled by John H. Wood, Secretary, 1930.